

In the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on page 1, line 5:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US2003/036317, filed November 12, 2003, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2), which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/445,417, filed February 5, 2003; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/426,545, filed November 15, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

Atherosclerosis: The progressive narrowing and hardening of a blood vessel over time. Atherosclerosis is a common form of ~~ateriosclerosis~~ arteriosclerosis in which deposits of yellowish plaques (atheromas) containing cholesterol, lipoid material, and lipophages are formed within the intima and inner media of large and medium-sized arteries.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Brachial-reactivity~~ reactivity: The ability of the brachial artery to dilate in response to physiological or pharmacological stimulation. Brachial reactivity is a measure of vascular function or endothelial function. One of skill in the art can readily measure brachial reactivity (see the Examples section below). Previous studies have determined the utility of measuring brachial reactivity as an independent predictor of cardiovascular events.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Cardiovascular risk: The likelihood of the development of disorders related to the cardiovascular system, such as, but not limited to, myocardial ischemia and infarction, intermittent claudication, bowel ischemia, retinal ischemia, transient ischemic attacks, ischemic strokes, and other conditions associated with cardiovascular dysfunction. In a specific non-limiting example, the disorder is ~~myocardial ischemia~~ myocardial ischemia or ~~infarction~~ infarction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

In another specific, non-limiting example, the enumeration of endothelial progenitor cells is of use in diagnosing ~~atherosclerosis~~ atherosclerosis. Thus, the method includes measuring the number of circulating endothelial cell precursors to determine the risk for developing a cardiovascular condition such as, but not limited to, atherosclerosis.

Please insert the attached Abstract as the last page of the specification.